GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1420
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Bauxite Mining in Niyamgiri Hills
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the attempt of the State Government of Odisha to revive bauxite mining atop the ecologically fragile Niyamgiri Hills by putting these mines for auction despite the fact that the Supreme Court had quashed a petition by Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) in May, 2016; and

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a)&(b) As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 and the Rules framed thereunder, the State Governments are empowered to carry out auction of mines/ mineral block in accordance with the prescribed law. However, before starting of any mining activities, all statutory provisions as contained in various relevant Acts and Rules viz, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (40 of 1996); and the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007) are to be complied with.

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